Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-46. (Withdrawn)

47. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a tissue section within surrounding tissue comprising:

positioning a distal end of a catheter assembly at a target location within a patient, the catheter assembly defining an axis;

moving an elongate tissue separator element, at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a radially retracted state to an outwardly extending, operational state; and

~~automatically, following at least the start of the separator element moving step,~~ rotating the separator element about the axis to separate a tissue section from surrounding tissue.

48. (Original) The method of according to claim 47 further comprising supplying energy to the separator element.

49. (Original) The method of according to claim the 48 wherein the energy supplying step comprises supplying RF energy to the separator element.

50. (Original) The method of according to claim 47 wherein the automatically rotating step begins after the separator element has reached the operational state.

51. (Original) The method according to claim 47 wherein the automatically rotating step is carried out by rotating the separator element about 540° about the axis.

52. (Original) The method according to claim 47 further comprising moving a tissue holding element, located at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a retracted condition to an extended, tissue engaging condition.

53. (Original) The method according to claim 52 wherein the tissue holding element moving step is carried out following the automatically rotating step.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 52 wherein the tissue holding element moving step is carried out using at least one wire having a pre curved distal end.

55. (Original) The method according to claim 47 further comprising surrounding the separated tissue section with a tubular braided element by moving the tubular braided element, located at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a proximal, radially contracted state to a distal, radially expanded state following the automatically rotating step.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a tissue section within surrounding breast tissue of a patient comprising:

positioning a distal end of a catheter assembly at a target location within the breast of a patient, the catheter assembly defining an axis;

moving an elongate tissue separator element, at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a radially retracted state to a radially extended, outwardly bowed, operational state;

supplying energy to the separator element;

~~automatically, following the separator element moving step,~~ rotating the separator element about the axis to separate a tissue section from surrounding tissue;

moving a tissue holding element, located at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a retracted condition to an extended, tissue engaging condition; and

surrounding the separated tissue section with the tubular braided element by moving the tubular braided element, located at the distal end of the catheter assembly, from a proximal, radially contracted state to a distal, radially expanded state following the automatically rotating step.

57. (Original) The method of according to claim the 56 wherein the energy supplying step comprises supplying RIF energy to the separator element.

58. (Original) The method of according to claim 56 wherein the automatically rotating step begins after the separator element has reached the operational state.

59. (Original) The method according to claim 56 wherein the automatically rotating step is carried out by rotating the separator element about 540° about the axis.

60. (Original) The method according to claim 56 wherein the tissue holding element moving step is carried out following the automatically rotating step.

61. (Original) The method according to claim 56 wherein the tissue holding element moving step is carried out using at least one wire having a pre curved distal end.

62. (New) The method according to claim 47 wherein the step of rotating the separator element occurs automatically, following at least the start of the separator element moving step.

63. (New) The method according to claim 56 wherein the step of rotating the separator element occurs automatically, following at least the start of the separator element moving step.